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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 4010th meeting of the Security Council, held on 27 May 1999 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Somalia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its alarm at the serious deterioration in the political, military and humanitarian situation in Somalia and concern at the reports of increasing external interference in Somalia.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and unity of Somalia, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It reiterates that full responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and for restoring peace rests with the Somali people.

"The Security Council expresses its support for the activities of the Standing Committee on Somalia and calls upon all Somali factions to cease immediately all hostilities and to cooperate with the regional and other efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned at recent reports of the illicit delivery of weapons and military equipment to Somalia in violation of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 which could exacerbate the crisis in Somalia and endanger the peace and security of the region as a whole.

"The Security Council reiterates its call upon States to observe the arms embargo and to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia. It further requests Member States having information about violations of the provisions of resolution 733 (1992) to provide this information to the Committee created pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the humanitarian impact of the long-lasting crisis, and in particular condemns attacks or acts of violence against civilians, especially women, children and other

vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons. It also condemns attacks on humanitarian workers, in violation of the rules of international law.

"The Security Council calls upon the Somali factions to cooperate on the basis of the principles of neutrality and non-discrimination with the United Nations agencies and other organizations carrying out humanitarian activities. The Council urges all parties to guarantee the security and the freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and to ensure unhindered access to those in need of assistance. In this regard, it also commends the existing coordination of all efforts of the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of the Somali people undertaken by the Somali Aid Coordination Body, comprising donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

"The Security Council urges all States to contribute generously to the appeal of the United Nations to ensure continued relief and rehabilitation efforts in all regions of Somalia, including those aimed at the strengthening of civil society.

"The Security Council welcomes the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) in Nairobi.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to submit periodic reports on the situation in Somalia.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."